

B<sup>1</sup>  
099884 reports that a degradation product of a polysaccharide, as well as in combination with tannin, has been effective in suppressing the growth of gram-negative bacteria. Japanese Patent Laid-Open No. Hei 6-329548 reports that an enzymatically degraded product of guar gum is added to a livestock feed, promoting bowel movement, thereby giving prophylactic and therapeutic effects on diarrhea and the like. In addition, Japanese Patent Laid-Open No. Hei 10-201428 discloses a mineral absorption-promoting feed composition containing galactomannan treated to have a lower molecular weight. However, none of these techniques are involved with improvement of the producibility of laying hens bred for the purpose of producing chicken eggs and the producibility of edible chickens bred for the purpose of producing chicken meat. --

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 2, 5 and 13-23 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Amended) A productivity improver for poultry, comprising:

B<sup>2</sup>  
(i) a polymannose having a molecular weight distribution in which a polymannose having the molecular weights ranging from  $1.8 \times 10^3$  to  $1.8 \times 10^5$  accounts for 70% or more, the polymannose